

Message Text

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12

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01

INSE-00 /044 W

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R 270700Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4019

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NICOSIA 2112

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, LE, CY

SUBJ: LEBANESE REFUGEES IN CYPRUS: REPORTED INCIDENT INVOLVING
PONTIFICAL MISSION

REF: GENEVA 5549 (NOTAL)

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH CONSOFF JULY 21, CONSTANTINE VLACHOPOULOS, DIRECTOR OF PONTIFICAL MISSION FOR PALESTINE (PMP), DISCUSSED HIS EFFORTS TO ASSIST DISPLACED LEBANESE IN CYPRUS AND ALSO RECENT "SIT-DOWN STRIKE" BY SEVERAL LEBANESE AT HIS OFFICE. VLACHOPOULOS NOTED THAT 600-700 LEBANESE CHRISTIANS HAVE CONTACTED PMP FOR ASSISTANCE IN PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, AND APPROXIMATELY 80 PERSONS ARE RECEIVING PMP MONTHLY ALLOTMENTS OF CY POUNDS 20. VLACHOPOULOS REMARKED THAT LATEST LEBANESE ARRIVALS HAVE TENDED TO BE TRADESPEOPLE OR MEMBERS OF LOWER MIDDLE CLASS WHO DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT SAVINGS TO MAINTAIN THEMSELVES IN CYPRUS FOR LONG PERIOD. HE SAW NEED INCREASING FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANESE HERE.

2. VLACHOPOULOS TOLD CONSOFF THAT THREE LEBANESE STAGED "SIT-DOWN STRIKE" AT PMP OFFICE JULY 14. THEY REFUSED TO
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LEAVE PREMISES WHEN INFORMED THAT PMP COULD NOT REGISTER

THEM AT PRESENT FOR EMIGRATION TO U.S. AS REFUGEES. AFTER SEVERAL HOURS, VLACHOPOULOS REQUESTED POLICE TO GUIDE THE THREE PERSONS OUT OF THE OFFICE. NO FURTHER INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED.

3. VLACHOPOULOS TOLD CONSOFF THAT PMP OFFICE HAS IDENTIFIED 170 PERSONS AS PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY TO U.S. AS REFUGEES UNDER PROVISIONS OF SECTION 203(A)(7) OF U.S. IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT. HE SAID THESE PERSONS ARE INTERESTED IN EMIGRATION TO U.S., DO NOT APPEAR TO MEET USUAL IV REQUIREMENTS, AND DO POSSESS OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS WHICH WOULD ALLOW THEM TO BE EASILY INTEGRATED INTO AMERICAN SOCIETY. PMP STAFF HAS APPARENTLY COMPLETED QUPK USG APPLICATION FORMS I-590A "APPLICATION FOR CLASSIFICATION AS A REFUGEE", BUT PRACTICE HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED FOR TIME BEING.

4. IN APRIL DISCUSSION AT EMBASSY, AMBASSADOR HAD URGED VLACHOPOULOS TO CONSULT INS REPS IN ATHENS OR ROME DIRECTLY ON PMP INITIATIVE IN SCREENING LEBANESE IN CYPRUS FOR CONSIDERATION UNDER SECTION 203(A) (7) OF INA. VLACHOPOULOS TOLD CONSOFF JULY 21 THAT HE HAD NOT CONTACTED INS REPS PERSONALLY ON PMP REGISTRATION ACTIVITY, AND HE INTENDED TO AWAIT RESULTS OF ALLEGED APPROACHES BY REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. CATHOLIC CONFERENCE TO INS CENTRAL OFFICE ON QUESTION OF REFUGEE STATUS FOR LEBANESE BEFORE TAKING ACTION ON HIS OWN.

5. IN REPLY TO CONSOFF'S QUESTION, VLACHOPOULOS SAID THAT PMP IS NOT REGISTERING PROSPECTIVE LEBANESE REFUGEE ENTRANTS TO OTHER COUNTRIES. HE ALLEGED QUOTE THAT MOST OF HIS REGISTRANTS ARE INTERESTED IN U.S. RESIDENCE AND THAT CANADA AND AUSTRALIA DO NOT HAVE SPECIAL PROVISIONS IN IMMIGRATION LAWS FOR REFUGEES. UNQUOTE.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS CONCERNED THAT PMP REGISTRATION OF REFUGEES FOR EMIGRATION TO U.S. MAY GENERATE UNREALISTIC (AND UNREALISABLE) EXPECTATIONS ON PART OF LEBANESE IN CYPRUS. ON JULY 22 A YOUNG LEBANESE CAME TO CONSULAR SECTION TO

VERIFY PROMISES ALLEGEDLY MADE BY PMP STAFF THAT HE WILL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ABLE TO EMIGRATE TO U.S. WITHIN SEVERAL MONTHS. YOUNG MAN SHOWED CONSOFF FORM ON PMP LETTERHEAD AND BEARING VLACHOPOULOS' SIGNATURE WHICH STATED: QUOTE THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE-MENTIONED APPLICANT IS REGISTERED WITH THE PONTIFICAL MISSION FOR EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA UNDER SECTION 203(A)(7) AND THAT HIS CASE IS UNDER CONSIDERATION. UNQUOTE. FORM WAS DATED APRIL 27, AND YOUNG MAN COMPLAINED THAT HE AND HIS

FRIENDS HAVE BEEN WAITING ANXIOUSLY FOR NEWS OF THEIR
VISAS. EXISTENCE OF THIS DOCUMENT INCREASES OUR CONCERN
THAT FRUSTRATION OF LEBANESE REFUGEES WITH PMP MAY
BECOME FOCUSED AGAINST USG AND THIS EMBASSY.

7. GOC MIGRATION OFFICE DIRECTOR INFORMED CONSOFF
JULY 23, THAT HIS RECORDS SHOW 3,384 LEBANESE NATIONALS
IN CYPRUS.

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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